

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Carson City District Office

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

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**Project Creator:** Dan Westermeyer, ORP

**Field Office:** Stillwater Field Office

**Lead Office:** Stillwater Field Office

**Case File/Project Number:** N/A

**Applicable Categorical Exclusion:** 516 DM 11.9 App 4. D. 10

Vegetation management activities such as seeding, planting, invasive plant removal, installation of erosion control devices and mechanical treatments, such as crushing, piling, thinning, pruning, cutting, chipping, mulching, mowing, and prescribed fire when the activity is necessary for the management of vegetation on public lands.

**NEPA Number:** DOI-BLM-NV-2011-C010-0500-CX

**Project Name:** Sand Mountain Kearny Buckwheat Planting

**Project Description:**

Background: BLM interns in 2007 collected seed from Kearney buckwheat shrubs at Sand Mountain for use in restoration projects. The seed was sown in containers and grown at the USDA ARS greenhouses on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno. The young buckwheat plants are now of sufficient size for planting at Sand Mountain.

Current Project: There are roughly 200 buckwheat plants that are ready for planting within the restricted areas along the east side of the main dune roughly ¼ of a mile north of the camping area. The restoration area is located on the east side of a mesh fence that separates the open and restricted areas. This area has undergone cultural surveys prior to the construction of the fence. Planting holes will be dug into the sand using shovels to a depth of 1 to 2 feet. The buckwheat will be planted in the holes and the sand filled back into the holes and packed in firmly around the roots. No cages or fiberglass protecting devices will be used as they have the potential to trap sand around the plants. The ideal planting window is mid March to Mid April while the plants are dormant and the sand is moist.

**Applicant Name:** BLM

**Project Location:**

Sand Mountain Recreation Area, 25 miles east of Fallon, Nevada.

T17N, R32E, Sec. 28

**BLM Acres for the Project Area:** Less than one acre total

**Land Use Plan Conformance:**

A: This action is in conformance with the Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001) Section WLD-6.4. Wildlife habitat improvement projects will be guided in the most part by the provisions in activity level plans such as habitat management plans, or interdisciplinary activity plans. These plans will be developed through consultation with interested parties and will be coordinated with livestock, wild horse and wilderness plans. These plans will be focused on rehabilitation and improvements of wildlife habitat through protective fencing, water developments, grazing management and vegetation treatments.

B: Conservation Plan, Sand Mountain Blue Butterfly 2006.

**Name of Plan:** NV – Carson City RMP.

**Screening of Extraordinary Circumstances:** The following extraordinary circumstances apply to individual actions within categorical exclusions (43 CFR 46.215). The BLM has considered the following criteria: (Specialist review: initial in appropriate box)

<i>If any question is answered 'yes' an EA or EIS must be prepared.</i>	YES	NO
1. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on public health or safety? (Range-Jill Devaurs)		go
2. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (EO 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas? (Archeology, Recreation, Wilderness, Wildlife, Range by allotment, Water Quality)		ea R
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]? (PEC)		Rmz
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (PEC)		Rmz
5. Would the Proposed Action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? (PEC)		Rmz
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (PEC)		Rmz
7. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the NRHP as determined by the bureau or office? (Archeology)		Jan
8. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the list of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species? (Wildlife)		R

9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? (PEC and Archeology)		SMC
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? ((PEC)		SMC
11. Would the Proposed Action limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007)? (Archeology)		SMC
12. Would the Proposed Action contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112)? (Range-Jill Devaurs)		JD

### SPECIALISTS' REVIEW:

During ID Team review of the above Proposed Action and extraordinary circumstances, the following specialists reviewed this CX:

Planning Environmental Coordinator - *Steve Tramm*  
 Water Quality - *J.R.*  
 Archaeologist - *[Signature]*  
 WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST - *[Signature]*  
 Wilderness - *Don Workman*  
 Recreation - *"*  
 Urban - *"*  
 Range/Noxious Weeds - *Steve Tramm For Jill Devaurs*

**CONCLUSION:** Based upon the review of this Proposed Action, I have determined that the above-described project is a categorical exclusion, in conformance with the LUP, and does not require an EA or EIS. A categorical exclusion is not subject to protest or appeal.

Approved by:

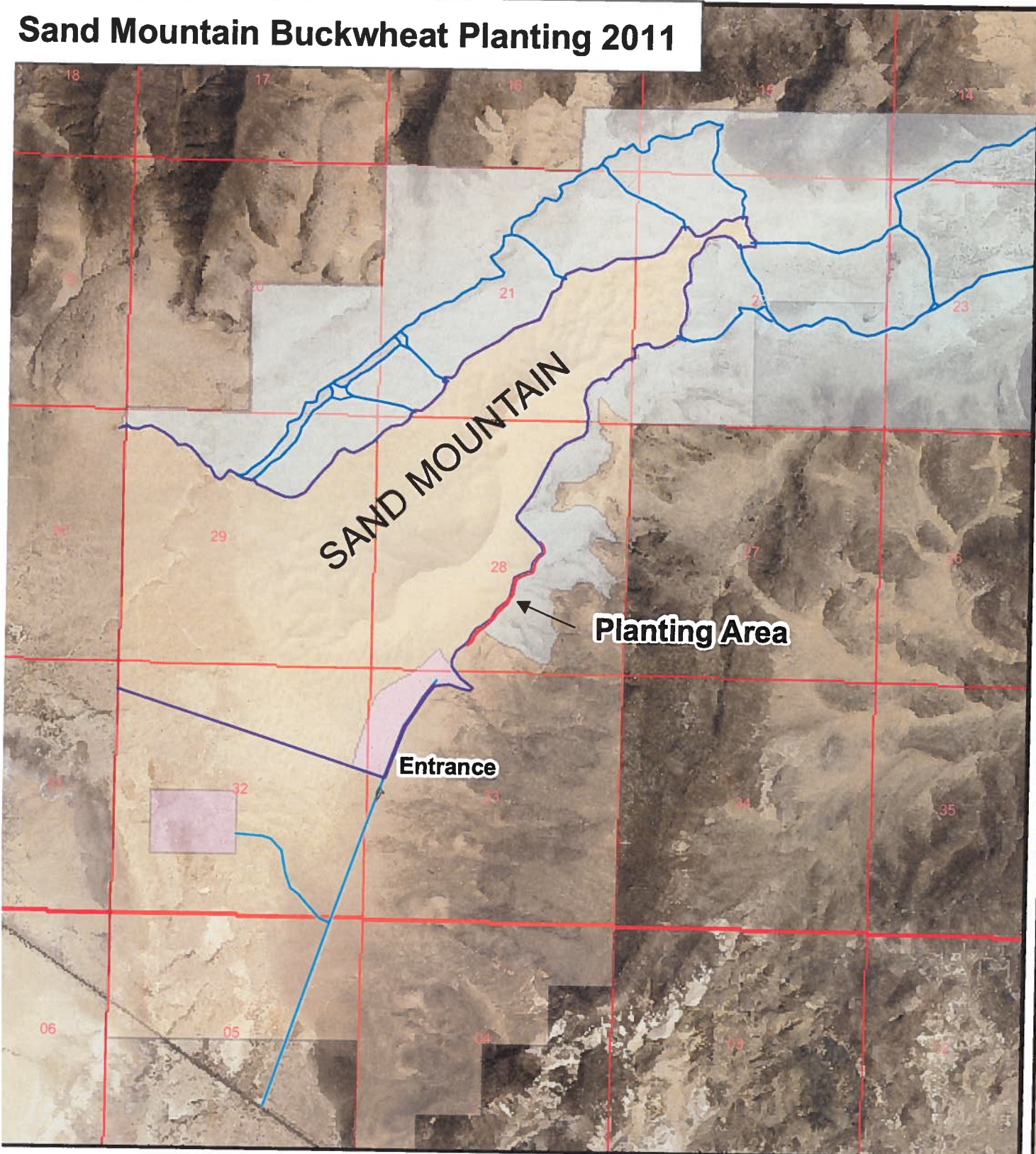
*Teresa J. Knutson*  
 Teresa J. Knutson  
 Field Manager  
 Stillwater Field Office

*04/11/2011*  
 (date)



# Sand Mountain Buckwheat Planting 2011

BLM



Carson City District Office

Categorical Exclusion DOI-BLM-NV-C0100-T17N, R32E, Sec. 28  
April 4, 2011

- Legend**
- Restricted\_XCountry\_Travel
  - Camp\_Area
  - Desert\_Study\_Area
  - Sand\_Mtn\_Rec\_Area\_BNDRY
  - Buckwheat Planting

